

Extending the Light: The Meaning of Chanukah

December 7, 7:30-9 pm

Join Rabbi Camille Shira Angel as we explore the deeper meaning of Channukah. This course is for everyone from the Chanukah novice to the more seasoned observer. We will look at the meaning of traditional Chanukah symbols. For more information and to RSVP, contact Dahlia Gross at 575-4961.

Community-Wide Karaoke Chanukah Dinner Celebration

Thursday, December 21, 6 pm

- Puppet Show with professional puppeteer Max McBride
- Bring your chanukiah for the first-night candle lighting
- Chow down with your family and friends
- Karaoke Party hosted by the fabulous diva Ms. Caryn Aviv a.k.a. Elvis the Pelvis

Admission:

Members: adults \$8, children \$4

Non-members: adults \$10, children \$5

Note: \$3 discount for every tray of latkes you bring for the celebration.

Hello and Bon Appetit

by Joe Hample for the Membership Committee

CSZ is a people's synagogue whose character depends on the folks that join us. There are lots of new members in the last few months, and we want to hear their stories and see their visions.

At services on Friday evening, December 8, Rabbi Angel will conduct a ceremony welcoming new members and introducing them to the congregation. To everyone who joined in 2000, please let the office know if you will be attending services.

There will also be a free New Member Brunch at 11 am Sunday morning, December 10, at the home of Marc Wernick, 1801 Gough (at California), Apt. 505, San Francisco. All CSZ members are invited; please let the office know if you can attend. New members: Come share your journey and let us know what you hope to find at CSZ. Seasoned members: Come celebrate the growth of the congregation and show your commitment to a synagogue where everyone's voice is heard. We promise that no one will go home hungry. The Membership Committee believes the synagogue belongs to old and new members alike. So each time the occasion arises, take the opportunity to greet the person in the next pew, or the person who passes you the coffee cake. We can't spell shul without U.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah

Are you ready for one of the great thrills of Jewish life? Are you prepared to chant from the Torah and share your learning with the community? Starting this winter, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will offer an Adult B'nai Mitzvah program. The curriculum includes: Beginning Hebrew Language, Prayerbook Hebrew, Service Preparation, and Ten Essentials of Judaism - a class where students will have the opportunity to meet with Rabbi Angel and other educators to discuss compelling Jewish ideas. Topics will include: the notion of covenant, spirituality and the history of Reform Judaism. Adult B'nai Mitzvah classes do not have to be taken consecutively. To register, please contact CSZ Program Director Dahlia Gross at cszdahlia@yahoo.com or 415/575-4961. The Adult B'nai Mitzvah Service will take place during the Shabbat prior to Shavuot, May 26.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Courses

Adult B'nai Mitzvah

Tuesday, December 19
7 - 9 pm

Ten Essentials of Judaism

Tuesdays, January 9 - March 13
7 - 8:30 pm

Prayerbook Hebrew

Tuesdays, February 13 - April 17
6 - 7 pm

Prayerbook Hebrew at CSZ

Tuesdays, February 13 - April 17 6 - 7 pm

There is little that matches the power and beauty of Jews gathered together in prayer. Prayer connects us with God, with other Jews and Jewish communities in present time, as well as past and future generations. When we recite the Shema, the Aleinu and the Kaddish, we merge with Jews throughout time who have recited the same words. This course will teach you not only how to read the prayers and what they mean, but also the melodies and choreography associated with each phase of the worship service. The new Sha'ar Zahav Siddur will be a primary text for this class.

Members: Free

Non-Members: \$100/10 sessions



Rabbi Angel

Long ago in the time of the Maccabees, the Syrian Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes decreed that the Jews could no longer practice Judaism. In response, the Maccabees fought and won the right to live as Jews in the land of Israel. Chanukah is the holiday that commemorates the Maccabees' victory for freedom. This Chanukah we need to stand up once again for freedom in the land of Israel; freedom to co-exist in peace as Jews with our Palestinian neighbors.

As one who cherishes Israel for so many reasons, it is clear to me at this time of great distress, that we, as a community, must find a common ground upon which to stand in solidarity with her. Facing such a challenge successfully depends on our willingness to listen to and respect one another's opinions: a continuum of perspectives. Just as the Maccabees were able to extend the light into the darkness, so too can we sustain our faith in Israel in her darker hours.

Like our ancestors before us, we must stand up for freedom. Besides lighting the chanukiah, spinning the dreidel and eating latkes, this year let us heed the prophet's call to peace, "not by might and not by power," but with our voices, our letters and our prayers. When we light the Chanukah candles, let us rekindle and rededicate ourselves to the hope of a lasting peace, a peace we call shalom.

In this spirit, let us turn to the words of Psalm 122:

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem
May those who love you be
at peace
May there be well-being
within your ramparts
Peace in your citadels
For the sake of my kin and friends
I pray for your well-being
For the sake of the house
of the Eternal our God
I seek your good.

Happy Chanukah!

Todah Rabah

Thank You to High Holiday Volunteers!

A tremendous thank you to logistics coordinators, Ron Miguel and Manny Fishman, and all the other volunteers who made it possible for over 500 CSZ members and guests to enjoy Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services this year. Some people volunteered for 100 hours, others for an hour or so, and we are grateful to all. Services, Kadimah activities, childcare, Tashlich, oneg and break fast - everything in which our congregation participated - was brought to you by volunteers working together with our fabulous CSZ staff. Below is a list of special people we want to thank. In trying to be complete we often inadvertently miss a person or two. Please let us know and accept our apology.

Ritual Coordinators:

Jeff Piade, Eileen Levy and Michael Sarid

Ensemble Conductor:

Jose Luis Moscovich

Usher co-chairs:

Karen Schiller, Gail Ludwig and Clarissa Kripke

Oneg and Break Fast co-chairs:

Elise Fineberg, Jeff Sherman and Deborah Udin

And thanks to:

Greg Albert, Ann Aptaker, Alison Austin, Caryn Aviv, Marianne Balin, Ben Bank, Zack Barnes-Miller, Yishai Begley, Ray Bernstein, Brian Besser, Ed Blaik, Nicole Bloom, Richard Brand, Emma Buchbinder, James Carlson, Lucy Cefalu, Tiela Chalmers, Phil Charney, Noah Chasnoff, Laura Chekow, Michael Chertok, Daniel Chesir, Ellie Cohen, Judith Cohen, Rick Crane, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Ann Daniels, Lele Diamond, Annie Downs, Ron Edelman, Greg Eichler, Judith Ellen, Steve Elman, Pam Erwin, Dev Felder Noily, Rachel Field, Shmulik

Fishman, Terry Fletcher, Jeff Forman, Jim Frazin, Lyssa Friedman, Jonathan Funk, Andy Fyne, David Gellman, Mark Gershman, Joan Goldman, Ellen Goodman, Alan Gordon, Mark Greenberg, Catherine Greenblatt, Sarita Groisser, Nina Grotch, Kirsten Gustavson, Sara Haber, Lisa Hamburger, Tony Harris, Steve Hauptman, Trudi Hauptman, Greer Hauptman, Lawrence Hellman, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Ira Hirschfield, Judith Holiber, Stephen Howard, Alex Ingersoll, Althea Ironwood, Geri Kahn, Leslie Kane, Nancy Kates, Elizabeth Katz, Lisa Katz, Rose Katz, Mike Klayman, Elliott Klein, Barbara Leff, Jonah Levy, Ron Lezell, Patricia Lin, Marc Lipschutz, Amanda Littauer, Laura Lowe, Henry Machtay, Rose Mallia, Steve Marshall, Jackie Mauro, Richard Meyerson, Phyllis Mintzer, Ellen Murland, Florence Nacamulli, Fran Newman, Lisa Ochs, Pat Pishny, Jo Podvin, Ora Prochovnick, Tzipora Prochovnick, Nathan Robinson, Staci Rosenthal, Martha Rosett, Joey Rozier, Jeff Rubin, Sharyn Saslaffsky, Ilene Savitt, Michael Schaffer, Judith Scherr, Ruth Schoenbach, Robert Schwartz, Karen Segal, Craig Shear, Sara Shor, Jeff Shuman, Josh Shuster-Lefkowitz, Arlene Singer, Beth Sousa, Laura Steele, Howard Steiermann, Louisa Stone, Michele Sullivan, Lisa Szer, Ruthy Talansky, Lee Thompson, Susan Unger, Darah Wallsten, Lonnie Weiss, Randy Weiss, Marc Wernick, Larry Wexler, Gilda Winiker, Mel Winiker, Nina Wouk, Frank Yellin, Natalie Zeituny, Danna Zeller, Reuben Zellman.

Todah Rabah to all our volunteers and staff. We value our volunteers at Sha'ar Zahav and encourage you to volunteer at next year's High Holidays and at various programs throughout the year.

Biblical Hebrew Fluency Group Going Strong

Every other Wednesday, from 7 - 8 pm, a group of Sha'ar Zahavniks meet to improve our Hebrew fluency by reading the week's Torah portion out loud. We support each other and we've already started to improve. Call Dahlia at 415/575-4961 for dates and location.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Our Financial Future Part II



David Gellman

My column last month introduced you to Sha'ar Zahav's Revenue Task Force, an advisory committee chaired by Lisa Katz, created to offer long-term recommendations for keeping CSZ's financial position strong and secure. The Task Force examined our existing "Fair Share" dues, our policies regarding new members, endowment funds, targeted fundraising opportunities, Planned Giving programs and grants as a source of additional operating revenue, to help CSZ achieve three goals:

- (1) Maintaining a balanced budget;
- (2) Achieving at least 65 - 70% of our revenues from dues;
- (3) Maintaining a significant reserve fund for emergencies.

A summary of the Revenue Task Force report is printed in this month's *Forward* (see page 11). The full report is available from the synagogue office. The enhancements to our membership policies recommended by the Task Force are in place, and Membership Outreach and Fundraising Committees are already taking shape - with room for your participation!

It is now time to focus on the Task Force's proposals for adjustment of our dues structure. The first proposal, is to raise the level at which our dues shift from 1.3% to 1.5% of gross adjusted income, from \$20,000 to \$25,000 for individuals and from \$30,000 to \$35,000 for families. It is not likely to elicit much controversy because it is basically an overdue adjustment for inflation. The second proposal, gradually increasing the annual building assessment from \$40 to \$100, seems unavoidable, given the economic realities of maintaining our building. The third proposal, however, has broader implications. The Task Force has recommended setting a cap on annual dues at \$3,600 per year. This proposed cap is more than two and one half times the annual \$1,400 per house

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Keeping Our Shul a Sacred Space for All *by Judy Schwartz*

At Sha'ar Zahav, we are committed to sustaining a safe environment to nurture and express our diverse spiritual, sexual, educational and ethical values. Our rabbi and professional staff, lay leaders and members join together to bring meaning to Torah and Jewish observance. We are committed to creative prayer, study, mitzvot and tikkun olam (repairing the world).

These are words from our congregational brochure, and they are a fitting and accurate description of who we are as a community. Whether we come to shul once a year, occasionally, every Shabbat, or many times a week, as a volunteer or staff person, we all want to feel safe at 290 Dolores Street. We want to know that when we walk in the door, we are entering a sacred space, a space in which we can grieve, rejoice, pray, be alone, be with others, think, feel, let down our guards and just be ourselves.

With these thoughts in mind, the Va'ad at its October meeting discussed the difficult subject of panhandling in the synagogue. Incidents have occurred before, during and after services. Our community is committed to welcoming all who would choose to join us. Inclusivity is a part of our very fabric. No one should feel marginalized at CSZ. When we are confronted with an aggressive person, we can feel accosted, either emotionally or physically.

The Va'ad concluded that no one coming to Sha'ar Zahav should have

to feel threatened. It is our collective responsibility to keep our shul a sacred, safe and welcoming space for all. Saying that, the Va'ad adopted a policy of zero tolerance for panhandling. If an individual is observed to be panhandling on synagogue grounds, he or she will be asked to leave.

All members can help enforce this policy. If anyone asks you for money at the synagogue, please politely decline. Find the Va'ad greeter, and inform him/her of the incident. The Va'ad greeter is equipped with a list of resources to give to anyone in need of food or shelter. The most compassionate and helpful action we can take is to help someone get to the services they need, and to give them the clear message that while everyone is welcome at Sha'ar Zahav, panhandling or other potentially threatening behavior is not. Enabling someone to act inappropriately is not helping that person in the long run.

There are systems in place to offer all kinds of support to members of our community in need. The Bikkur Cholim Committee reaches out to those who are ill. Rabbi Angel is available for pastoral counseling and assistance. It is not ok for individuals to put other individuals on the spot by asking them for money at our synagogue. We can all work together to ensure that Sha'ar Zahav continues to be a safe, sacred, open community for all of us.

One of the Bay Area's Best!

People are talking about it: "the Third Friday Night Prospective and New Member Dinners." Known for their fun and relaxing ambience, the dinners provide a nice setting to get to know other CSZ members in a casual setting. This month we will be eating at Bangkok 16 (3214 16th Street, between Guerrero and Dolores Streets). Join old and new friends for good food and good conversation. We will meet at CSZ at 6:15 pm and then head to Bangkok 16 around 6:30. For more information, please contact Joe Hample (hamplej@wellsfargo.com, 621-7675 or Marc Wernick (mhwernick@aol.com, 928-7883) or the synagogue office.

East Bay Services

Friday, December 15, 8:15 pm
at the home of Nancy Kates
1140 Delaware St. Berkeley
510/527-2292

Friday, January 19, 7:15 pm
Havurah potluck,
candle lighting and songs
at the home of Beth Sousa
3821 Nevil St. Oakland
510/434-1751

Call the synagogue office
or Ida Kuluk
(510/530-4673)
for details.

December 16

Zack Barnes-Miller



Zack is an eighth grade student at A.P. Giannini Middle School in San Francisco, where he plays violin in the orchestra and second base on the baseball team. He is an avid Giants fan and wakeboarder and in the off-season can be found playing computer games, touch football and amusing his brother Eli.

Jacqueline Angela Mauro



Jacqueline Angela Mauro is 12 years old. She moved to San Francisco in 1992 from Davis, California after having lived in Sacramento and Philadelphia. Jackie and her mother converted to Judaism in 1994. She plays soccer on a team with her friends from French-American School and she is interested in learning the maximum number of languages possible.

December 30

Shmulik Fishman



Fun-loving and intelligent, Shmulik Fishman was born in San Francisco and celebrated his 13th birthday last month. He'll be called to the Torah on his Bar Mitzvah December 30.

Shmulik has several hobbies, among them computers, music and history. He attended computer camp and now writes programs, creates web pages and enjoys burning CDs. He prefers music that has solid beats and is taking drum lessons to prove his point. While Shmulik enjoys music of his parents' generation, especially the Beatles, it's not unusual to find him singing his own creations or the music of Sugar Ray. In fact, at school, he's sometimes jokingly called Sugar Ray, because his friends claim that Shmulik has the same hairdo!

Shmulik is in the 7th grade at Charles Armstrong School in Belmont. He would like to invent robotic technology that would provide assistive technology to help

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Kadimah and Family Holiday

Saturday, December 16, 11:20-12 pm

Families! Prepare for Chanukah with Jeni Markowitz. We will tell each other stories, create art for our homes, and prepare for Chanukah together.

Children Meditate on Peace

In honor of Yitzhak Rabin's yahrzeit, the students of Kitah Vav composed several haikus on the theme of peace.

Dew falls on his grave
Mothers and children weep
The dove hides her head

Rocks and machine guns
Explode against darkened skies
We hope it stops soon

Twelve-year-olds throw rocks
And with them, they throw their lives
Do the mothers weep

If Jerusalem falls
Holy place in ruins
Hope for a new beginning

For more information about any of these programs, or to RSVP, contact Jeni Markowitz (familyeducator@shaarzahav.org) or David Shneer (educator@shaarzahav.org) at 575-4962.

Baby Havurah

Saturday, December 16, 9:30 am

Join us at our new time for Shabbat morning stretch and play! Songs, toys, bubbles, finger plays and a mini-service puppet show are not to be missed by the 24-month and under set.

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, December 16, 10:30 am

Tot Shabbat is for children aged 2-5, their friends and families. We come together for an age-appropriate service filled with art, storytelling, singing, prayer and movement.

Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner & Service

Friday, December 29, 6 pm

Shirah! (singing), T'fillah! (prayer), Kehillah! (community). Join Rabbi Angel, Jeni Markowitz and Lom Friedman for a catered meal followed by a Shabbat service on Friday, December 29 at 6 pm. New special programs for families with children in Junior Congregation (ages 6+) and young children alike.

Members:
adults \$9-14, children \$6-8,
Non-members:
adults \$10-15, children \$7-9.

Open Hand for the Holidays

In case you tend to be a procrastinator, like many Sha'ar Zahavniks, you still have time to join us for the Jewish community's support of Project Open Hand during the Christmas holidays. Every year we fill approximately 100 volunteer slots needed to bring hot and healthy meals to people living with AIDS. Although some time slots may be filled already, it is certain that we will still have some space available for you. You can sign up to prepare, package and/or deliver meals on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day. The sign-up fliers went out with last month's newsletter. You can get a new flier at the synagogue.

The deadline for signing up is **December 6th**. Please fax, email or call your information in to Dahlia. Last year Open Hand filled all volunteer vacancies from their pool of volunteers immediately after our deadline passed and we had to turn people away. So please, sign up today.

DON'T FORGET!

PLEASE DROP TOILETRY ITEMS FOR THOSE IN NEED INTO THE BIG RED BIN

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email:office@shaarzahav.org. Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward* as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

- *Chair and Editorial Coordinator:* Brian Jersky
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- *Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)
- *Design and Layout:* Kerri Schiff
- *Printing:* Genesis Printing & Graphics
- *Distribution:* Mail It Right

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

December 2000 Volume 24, Issue 3.



October Va'ad Minutes

The September meeting minutes were accepted with some minor changes.

David Gellman reviewed the costs associated with the Rabbi's installation, and offered to take these costs on as a personal fundraising opportunity on behalf of the synagogue. His offer was greeted with enthusiasm.

The Koret Synagogue Initiative, to which the congregation has an opportunity to apply, was discussed. CSZ will send a letter of intent requesting funding from Koret for membership outreach and retention programs.

Jacob Rothman has agreed to be one of the co-chairs of the Membership Outreach Committee, but we are still seeking a second co-chair.

The Music in the Mishkan series was discussed and it was agreed that it would continue again this year.

In her Rabbi's report, Rabbi Angel expressed happiness in her first two months and two weeks in her position at CSZ, noting that she received very positive feedback both before and after the High Holidays from many congregants. She expressed thanks to everyone in general and to the staff, the Rabbi Liaison committee and the Rabbi Search committee in particular for their support. Rabbi Angel noted that the first of five parlor sessions organized by the Rabbi Liaison committee would be happening the following Sunday.

Rabbi Angel informed the group that a management consultant from the Alban Institute, Sam Leonard, would be coming to consult with the congregation's leadership.

Judy Schwartz, a mental health professional and member of the congregation, facilitated a discussion about how to deal with abusive or difficult individuals who may appear at the synagogue. Judy noted

that those with mental illness need clear boundaries, focusing on correct behaviors and that enforcing these boundaries is a compassionate act. Some of the discussion surrounded situations in which individuals were panhandling in the synagogue after Shabbat services. The Va'ad adopted a zero tolerance policy toward panhandling in the synagogue building (see page 3).

Howard Herman, representing the Crisis Management Group established previously by the Va'ad, presented an outline of some possible security actions. Several interim measures will be instituted and a full proposal will be presented at the November Va'ad meeting.

James Carlson referred the group to the Treasurer's Report included in the meeting handouts. James noted that the synagogue seems to be on target with its estimates for dues pledges for the year. Other budgeted items were "too early to tell," but it appears that they will be within expected variance.

The Va'ad discussed the need to send to the congregation the report presented by the Revenue Task Force last month, as well as to set up forums for gathering feedback. Lisa Katz agreed to prepare an article for the December *Forward* (see page 11), to include the executive summary as well as instructions for obtaining the complete report via the office or the web site. Plans for soliciting feedback include one or two town meetings in January or February. Details and dates will be announced in the *Forward*, (see page 11).

Lea Salem presented the Administrator's Report, which included membership renewal statistics, as well as thanks to the many who served in various leadership and volunteer roles for the High Holidays. She noted that the carpets

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Why Are These Members Different From All Other Members? *by Marc Wernick*



"The alternative to the alternative" might be the quick answer to that question, but then you might miss the thoughtfulness and insight that has crafted Helen Cohen's world.

Helen Cohen is co-producer with Debra Chasnoff (also a CSZ member) at Women's Educational Media, a non-profit production and distribution company that specializes in social and educational films. Helen and Debra achieved critical acclaim for their film, "It's Elementary" - a documentary for educators and parents about the importance of addressing lesbian and gay issues with elementary school children. "The film was shot in classrooms around the country and focuses on the insights and experiences of the kids. It is simple and right to the point. The issue is not about sex, but about respect," Helen explains.

For Helen, filmmaking affords her the opportunity to combine her expertise in urban planning, her professional experience in community development, her activism and her strong artistic background. Helen is currently working on a series of videos for elementary and middle school children with an anti-bias theme. The first video, "That's A Family!" which was just released, examines all types of family structures, Helen says, again from the child's perspective. "We looked at six different family structures including gay/lesbian and guardian/grandparent-headed families, mixed-race families, families with adopted children, single parent families and families that have gone through divorce. You see families bowling, doing homework and making chocolate cake. And it becomes apparent that the structure doesn't matter, it is about the care and love in the family."

Alternative family structure is a topic close to Helen's heart. She is co-parenting her daughter, Anna Sophia (8), with Robert Schwartz, a member of CSZ. For Helen, the biggest challenge of her co-parenting arrangement has been working on the communication that is necessary and adjusting to the interdependence that comes with friends becoming parents. "Suddenly there is huge emotional as well as logistical interdependence. The challenge is balancing the desire for family, and

the need to maintain autonomy and very separate lives," notes Helen. Helen sees many benefits to her co-parenting situation. "Not being romantic partners with Anna's father is a good thing. For me, nuclear family living and parenting seemed a little claustrophobic. By co-parenting I have the best of many worlds. I have an independent life, close friendships and relationships, and I get to be a mom with real quality time with my kid. On the days that Anna is with Robert, I paint, go to the movies and see friends, knowing that she is in the best of hands with her dad. Robert and I have tremendous respect for each other's parenting styles and commitment. And I could not have asked for a more supportive "in-law" than Tio (Spanish for uncle and the affectionate name Anna has for Robert's partner, Jose Luis Moscovich)."

Helen and Anna decided to join CSZ as a result of the outreach activities of the Children's Education Board (CEB). "Robert and Jose Luis got a phone call from the CEB saying that they would like to include Anna in Kadimah, or help with her Jewish education in some way. They recognized her special needs and welcomed her." Helen had been coming to Sha'ar Zahav on and off for 15 years. "I was part of a group that went shul hopping - the 'wandering Jews.' Somehow like a musical refrain, we kept coming back to CSZ for High Holidays. It was becoming more and more like home - the melodies, the extended community, the pace of the service held meaning for me. Last spring I decided it was about time I bit the bullet and joined. I figured I have a kid in Kadimah, my extended family is affiliated, and I keep coming to High Holiday service at Sha'ar Zahav. This is my Jewish community," Helen explains.

As is our minhag (custom), we asked Helen four questions:

Q. While raising a child, you see things anew, through their eyes. What have you rediscovered about Judaism through Anna?

A. Anna is a very musically inclined child and loves ritual. Since starting Kadimah last year, she wonders around the house singing Hineh Ma Tov. The melodies and prayers have gone into her being, and that makes us very proud and warms my heart. The complete innocence of her singing reminds me of my own basic connection

to Judaism.

Q. If you could teach Anna the most important aspect of our Jewish heritage, what would that be?

A. Coming together for community, to share tradition, through Kadimah and through our Shabbat group is very important to me. Helen has been getting together with a group of about six adults and their kids since 1989. On the first Shabbat of every month, they sing, eat, talk, argue, and laugh a lot. Helen feels that ritual and community are intertwined as the key components of the Jewish experience.

Q. In a few weeks, we will be celebrating Chanukah. What is your favorite memory of the holiday?

A. "A few years back, we had an extended family Chanukah dinner: me, the man I was in a relationship with at the time, Anna, Robert, Jose Luis, and Robert's parents who were visiting. We had lit the menorah, finished dinner and I had just returned from putting Anna to sleep downstairs in the duplex we shared. We were sitting around the table, schmoozing. Robert's mother, in her thick, New York accent proclaimed, 'This is marvelous! Anna has a wonderful mother and father. And you have your lovers on the side! What a thing you have done!' What a compliment it was from my 'mother-in-law.' I was so moved that Edith Schwartz, who could not have come from a more traditional background, saw and appreciated our very non-traditional family arrangement."

Q. There is a big gap between Chanukah and the next major Jewish holiday, Purim. If you could create an annual holiday during that gap, what would it commemorate?

A. "Well, we certainly don't need another holiday that commemorates anything bad, that tells the story of staving off something or someone horrible and oppressive. We need another holiday that celebrates life, that celebrates diversity, complete with song and dance, and maybe some candles."

All of us at CSZ welcome and celebrate the creativity and diversity that Helen Cohen, Anna Schwartz-Cohen and her extended family, Robert Schwartz and Jose Luis Moscovich bring to our community.

Chanukah - The Triumph of the Humble *by Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee*

Psalm 149, written in honor of the victorious Maccabees, praises God who "crowns the humble with triumph." Nothing symbolizes this triumph better than the practice of lighting Chanukah candles, which entered the Jewish religion not by legislation from above but by custom from below. Not mentioned in the Torah, almost entirely ignored in the Talmud, Chanukah was preserved by the persistence of custom until the rabbis were forced to honor it by prescribing brachot over its traditions.

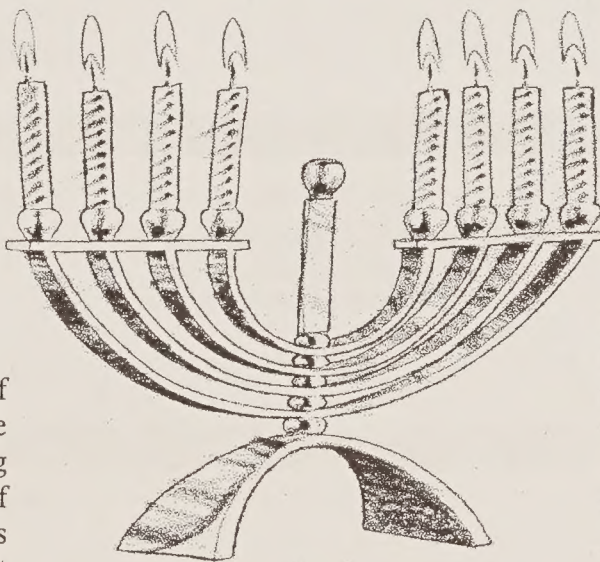
No one is sure how candles came to be associated with Chanukah. In the books of the Maccabees, written within a few generations of the events, there is no mention of any miraculous flask of oil burning for eight days. This is a later rabbinic legend, apparently created to explain the far-older practice of displaying lights at doors and windows. Rabbi Michael Graetz thinks the custom may have begun as a way of memorializing the many martyred civilians and fallen soldiers of the long war of liberation.

According to the Second Book of Maccabees, Chanukah began as a late Sukkot celebration. Upon rededicating the Temple, after three bitter years of war, "they celebrated for eight days with rejoicing in the manner of the feast of Sukkot, remembering how not long before, during the feast of Sukkot, they had been wandering in the mountains and caves like wild animals." In this account, the Temple lamps were rekindled without drama, as part of restoring the Temple's normal functions. Judah and his brothers "determined" and "decreed, by public ordinance and vote" that these should be national days of rejoicing - but not of kindling lights.

Flavius Josephus, writing after the destruction of the Temple, refers to the holiday as "the festival of Lights, . . . from the fact that the right to worship appeared to us at a time when we hardly dared hope for it." He used light as a metaphor for making visible what was previously hidden. Josephus imagined the right to worship hidden in darkness, waiting only to be illumined and revealed. Despite his priestly education, he knew no reason more substantial than this metaphor to

connect candles with the festival we call Chanukah.

Yet in practice the connection has been unbroken. The only Talmudic discussions of Chanukah concern candles. The schools of Hillel and of Shammai disagreed about the correct order of lighting. Because Chanukah may have begun as a belated Sukkot celebration, Shammai's followers argued that its observances should echo those of Sukkot. On Sukkot, as each day's rejoicing increased, building towards the water-drawing ceremony, the number of sacrifices offered in the Temple decreased; therefore on Chanukah, the number of candles lit each day should decrease.



Hillel's followers countered that times had changed; life was harder, rejoicing harder to summon. The duty of publicizing the possibility of miracles became more urgent with each night, as the waning moon grew thinner and then disappeared. The growing number of lights each night symbolized growing hope, until a blaze of light ushered in the new moon.

The school of Shammai had unassailable logic, and would have been right in a perfect world. But in our world, where the need for encouragement is constant, the school of Hillel won in practice. They based their interpretation on the needs of ordinary people, the many who had created and preserved the custom of candle-lighting.

Once Chanukah became a matter of rabbis, laws proliferated. For example, even blind people are required to light Chanukah candles. Not so the candles lit for Shabbat or in honor of any of the pilgrimage festivals; those candles need be kindled only by people who can benefit from their light. But Chanukah is different. Its lamps do not light the house, because traditionally they are placed outside the door, or at least in windows. Their light may not be used even for reading, because it is not for the household, but for the world, on the long winter nights of the waning moon.

Later authorities ruled that Chanukah lights must be small, not a series of torches. The miracle they symbolize is the victory of the apparently weak over a powerful army. The candles must be individual, so as not to accidentally combine into a torch; each must add its small separate light to the whole.

A miracle is a sign of God's presence in the world. So is the quieter process of building small lights into a massive illumination, a process exemplified by the eventual sanctification of a custom created by generations of ordinary people, who acted on their need to create light at the heart of darkness, until their light created a blessing.

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

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East Bay...3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette - (925)284-3945

Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director

December-Kislev/Tevet

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		VOD	
<div><div>FEBRYARY DEADLINE MONDAY, DECEMBER</div><div>ARTICLES</div><div>Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to: brian.jersky@sonoma.edu. <i>No late submissions will be accepted.</i></div><div>ADVERT</div><div>To place a display ad, contact Ros or froslyn@earthlink.net. To place</div></div>							
3	6 Kislev	4	7 Kislev	5	8 Kislev	6	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 am-12 pm - Membership Committee Meeting• 10:30 am-2 pm - Dialogue on Class, Income and Money• 6 pm - JGF Layout• 7-8:30 pm - Torah Trope Class		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-3 pm - Healing Service		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6-7 pm - Beginning Hebrew• 7-8:30 pm - Scenes, Sagas and Seductions from our Sacred Texts <i>taught by Rabbi Angel</i>• 8:30-9 pm - Adult Bnai Mitzvah Meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 pm - Kadi• 6-9 pm - Parlo with	
10	13 Kislev	11	14 Kislev	12	15 Kislev	13	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 am - New Member Brunch• 3-6 pm - Parlor Session <i>with Rabbi Angel</i>• 7-8:30 pm - Torah Trope Class		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting• 7:30-9 pm - Understanding Jewish History <i>taught by David Shneer at Beth Sholom</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6-7 pm - Beginning Hebrew• 7-8:30 pm - Scenes, Sagas and Seductions from our Sacred Texts <i>taught by Rabbi Angel</i>• 8:30-9 pm - Adult Bnai Mitzvah Meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 pm - Kadi• 7 pm - Biblio Fluer	
17	20 Kislev	18	21 Kislev	19	22 Kislev	20	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7-8:30 pm - Torah Trope Class				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7-9 pm - Adult Bnai Mitzvah Class		<ul style="list-style-type: none">No Kadimah• 7 pm - Adult Ed	
24	Chanukah 27 Kislev	25	Chanukah 28 Kislev	26	Chanukah 29 Kislev	27	Cha
		Office Closed				<ul style="list-style-type: none">No Kadimah• 7 pm - JGF Editi	
31	5 Tevet	1	6 Tevet	2	7 Tevet	3	
						<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 pm - Kadi	

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need upda

THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SHABBAT	
5 ING uerman (510/526-1209 ssified ad, call the office.		1 World AIDS Day 4 Kislev • 4:33 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Larry Wexler, Lyssa Friedman</i> <i>and Zack Barnes-Miller</i> Sermon by G'dali Braverman		2 Shabbat Toledot 5 Kislev • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Ora Prochovnick</i> • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah	
	9 Kislev 7 10 Kislev Midweek Hebrew sion <i>Angel</i> • 7:30-9 pm - Chanukah Class <i>taught by Rabbi Angel</i>	8 Erev Sukkot 11 Kislev • 4:33 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Sandy O'Neill and Eileen Levy</i> <div> New Member Welcome Shabbat </div>		9 Shabbat Va-Yetze 12 Kislev • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Andy Fyne and Sara Shor</i> • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah • 3-6 pm - Sharing our Prayers and listening to our Feelings about the Middle East	
16 Kislev 14 17 Kislev Midweek Hebrew ebrew roup		15 Erev Simchat Torah 18 Kislev • 4:34 pm - Candle Lighting • 6:15 pm - Dinner with the Membership Committee • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Dev Felder Noily</i> <i>Naming of Mia and Zola Crow Rosenfeld</i> • 8:15 pm - East Bay Services		16 Shabbat Va-Yishlach 19 Kislev • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 9:30 am - Kadimah and Baby Havurah • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Tiela Chalmers and</i> <i>Leslie Kane B'nai Mitzvah of Jackie Mauro</i> <i>and Zack Barnes-Miller</i> • 10:30 am - Tot Shabbat • 11:20 am - Kadimah Family Chanukah • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah	
23 Kislev 21 Erev Chanukah 24 Kislev on Meeting • 4:36 pm - Light First Chanukah Candle • 6 pm - Community Wide Chanukah Dinner and Karaoke Party		22 Chanukah 25 Kislev • 4:37 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Kirsten Gustavson and</i> <i>Michael Sarid</i>		23 Shabbat Va-Yeshev 26 Kislev No Kadimah • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Howard Steiermann</i> • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah	
1 Tevet 28 Chanukah 2 Tevet • 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting		29 Chanukah 3 Tevet • 4:42 pm - Candle Lighting • 6 pm - Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner and Service • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Danny Kodmur</i>		30 Shabbat Mi-Ketz 4 Tevet No Kadimah • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Angel and Tiela Chalmers</i> <i>Bar Mitzvah of Shmulik Fishman</i> • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah	
8 Tevet 4 9 Tevet		5 10 Tevet • 4:47 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services		6 Shabbat Va-Yiggash 11 Tevet • 9:15 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services • 1-2:15 pm - Meditation Havurah	

information.

kids in their learning skills and even to make snacks. He envisions something voice-activated, containing a scanner, printer, internet connection, able to transform from three feet tall to pocket size. He welcomes inquiries from venture capitalists!

Shmulik wishes to thank his teachers at CSZ, especially Phyllis, Brian Besser, his parents Leslie and Manny, and yours truly who is his proud tutor. His favorite subject is world history, as he feels the way things are today have been formed by the events of the past. Shmulik says he enjoys being Jewish - "it's fun, the holidays and experiences are great, and I want to pass this down to my children." While he says that not all Jewish history is true (doesn't believe the Dead Sea parted, that God spoke directly to Moses or that the Jews walked the desert for 40 years), he believes this history is based on actual events, that have been expanded because of the Jewish people's pleasure in their achievements.

Ron Lezell

Members' Yahrzeits

- 4 Marilyn O'Keeffe
- 9 Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu
- 18 David Glassberg
- 20 Norman David Kramer
- 29 Allan Craig

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& Disputes



Do you have items for the Naches Column? We'd love to publish them. Please contact the office and give us your good news!

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street
861-6932 (voice); 861-6081 (fax)
Programming office, 575-4961
Education office, 575-4962
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)

CSZ Staff:

Rabbi, Camille Shira Angel
- rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org
Administrator, Lea Salem
- lsalem@shaarzahav.org
Program Director, Dahlia Gross
- cszdahlia@yahoo.com
Director of Children's Education,
David Shneer
- educator@shaarzahav.org
Kadimah Head Teacher,
Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant,
Melanie Kushnir
- mkushnir@shaarzahav.org
Jewish Family Educator,
Jeni Markowitz
- familyeducator@shaarzahav.org

Officers:

President, David Gellman
(550-9449),
- sfgellman@aol.com or
- president@shaarzahav.org
Vice President, Lisa Katz
Vice President, Lyssa Friedman
Treasurer, James Carlson
Recorder, Nancy Kates

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Diana Buchbinder (ex officio)
Howard Herman
Howard Steiermann
Rose Katz
Laura Lowe
Drew Parker-Rose
Jacob Rothman
Jeffrey Sherman
Susan Unger
Ami Zusman

*Members wishing to contact any
Va'ad member or committee chair
are invited to obtain her or his
number from the synagogue office.*

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman
and Prudence Carter
Archives, open
Baby Havurah, open
Bequests and Donations,
Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, Allan Berenstein,
Avraham Giannini, Eileen Levy,
Rachel Maclachlan, Deborah Udin
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds, Arthur Cohen
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Liz Schaffer
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open
Dues Liaison, open
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk
and Larry Wexler
Endowment Fund, David Stein
Finance, James Carlson
Fine Arts, Bob Gutterman
Fundraising, open
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Israel Havurah, Ron Lezell
and Michal Goralsky
La'atid, open
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen
Library, Joan Goldman
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Joe Hample
and Marianne Balin
Membership Outreach, Jacob Rothman
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign,
Ellie Cohen
Newsletter, Brian Jersky
- brian.jersky@sonoma.edu
Past Presidents Council, David Stein
Personnel, Lyssa Friedman
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky
and Marc Wernick
Rabbi Liaison, Allan Gold
Ritual, Nicole Bloom
- bloomn@netscape.net
Social Action, Laura Lowe and
Allan Berenstein
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah,
Deena Lahn
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman
Women's Havurah, open

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

hold cost of running our congregation, and would effectively mean that all households with incomes above \$240,000 would pay the same \$3,600 annual dues.

When we established our existing "Fair Share" dues program, many of our members felt, and still feel today, that a dues cap goes against our values, because it treats wealthy members more favorably than middle-income members. Our present dues system places a greater burden on those who make \$50,000 a year than on those who make \$350,000 a year, because those at the lower income level have less discretionary income. So even though the dollar amount paid to CSZ as dues by the \$350,000 earner is higher, the relative proportion of that person's discretionary income is lower. Allowing very high-income members to pay less than

1.5% of their income skews this imbalance even further.

On the other hand, it is a reality that our synagogue relies upon its upper-income members to pay sums significantly higher than their per capita share of operating expenses, not only to augment dues from households paying less than \$1,400 per year, but also to help cover the additional 30-35% of our operating costs that are not covered by dues. The continued willingness of these members to pledge more in dues than the actual cost of their membership makes it possible for us to have this building, a rabbi and a growing professional staff. Just as we depend upon the hundreds of hours of volunteer time critical to our functioning, we also depend upon the extra financial generosity of our members to provide capital gifts, to subsidize programs, to pay

for onegs, flowers and other "extras" that would otherwise not be a part of our budget. Many high-income earners are uncomfortable with a system that sets no upper limit on the amount required of them just to be a member. We have heard from high-income earners who have refused to join because our policy will cost them over \$10,000 per year in membership dues; some current members feel compelled to understate their incomes and are understandably uncomfortable with the moral dilemma; and several high-income families have already resigned in protest.

Your Va'ad will be weighing these conflicting concerns over the next few months, and will submit a recommendation at our annual Congregational Meeting, where you will decide whether to approve any changes to our dues structure. At these meetings, we will also be seeking fresh input on the topic of donor recognition, to provide guidance to our new Fundraising Committee. To engage all of our members in this process, we will be holding Town Hall meetings on January 7, at 10 am, and on January 18, at 7 pm, at the synagogue. I hope you will be an active participant in these discussions, as we look at our past, consider our present, and determine our future together.

Revenue Task Force Report

Executive Summary

In order to increase revenue we must:

1. Recruit at least 100 new members in the next three years, and
2. Increase donations to at least \$60,000 per year.

This report recommends changes to our structure, policy, program and philosophy. We believe these changes are needed for the congregation to keep our fiscal house in order.

A. Proposed Structural Changes

1. Establish a new Fundraising Committee
2. Establish a new proactive Membership Outreach Committee

B. Proposed Policy Changes

1. Dues
 - a) No dues increase
 - b) Establish a dues cap at \$3,600 per year. (All members taking advantage of the dues cap will be asked to make an additional recognized contribution to CSZ.)
 - c) Adjust the 1.3% income dues bracket level to \$25,000 for individual and \$35,000 for families.

2. Building

a) Annual Building Assessment: Increase the annual building assessment over a period of three years to ultimately reach \$100.

b) Mishkan Dolores Building Pledge: For new members, our membership packet will contain information about the expectation of pledging to the Mishkan campaign. At the beginning of members' second year, a member of the Mishkan Campaign Committee will contact them to secure the pledge.

C. Related CSZ Values

The Revenue Task Force recommends these changes so that our congregation can maintain our financial integrity while staying true to our inclusive and egalitarian values. We must increase member understanding of our shared financial responsibility. In so doing, CSZ must also continue to honor all members of our congregation for all contributions of both time and money, while providing special recognition to those members who can provide a higher level of assistance. As we grow we must maintain the current character and makeup of the congregation.

Condolences

Louisa Stone on the death of her grandmother, Sarah Barlow.

Arnie Jackson on the death of his cousin, Mark Weiss.

Mike Zimmerman on the death of his mother, Helen Zimmerman.

Nina Wouk on the death of her friend, Fran Barnett.

Alexander Davidov on the death of his uncle, Ralph Krivokapich.

Nicole Bloom on the death of her grandmother, Sophye Mendelson Gold.

Susan Kirschbaum on the death of her grandmother, Lillian Rosenthal.

Daniel Chesir on the death of his friend, Murray Adelman.

Larry Wexler on the death of his friend, Arnold Karol.

Marsha Blachman.
Arthur Cohen, in honor of
 Lea Salem.
Ami Zusman.
Rose Katz, in honor of
 Rabbi Angel.
Ida Kuluk, in honor of
 Phyllis Mintzer.
Avraham Giannini.
Nancy Meyer, in memory
 of Marilyn O'Keeffe.
George and Ellie Bernard, in
 honor of Claudia Bernard,
 Howard Herman and
 Benjamin Bernard-Herman.
Betty Wexler, in honor of
 Jack Wexler.
James Carlson, in memory
 of Philip Tuzzolino.
Roland Stern.
Gordon Osser.
Hilary Zaid and Lauren
Augusta, in memory of
 Rose Bunin Reiser.
Margaret Rossoff.
Rob Tat, in honor of
 Rabbi Angel.
Melvin and Gilda Winiker.
Nancy Feinstein and
Glenn Shor, in honor of
 Judy Macks.
Randy Heilbrunn.
Rose Katz, in memory of
 Marvin J. Katz and
 Blanche Goldberg.
Steve Gaynes.
Ron Lezell, in honor of the
 Ritual Committee.
Joshua Deitch.
Eric Zaltas and Julie Melvin.
James Carlson, in honor of
 David Gellman, Laura Lowe,
 Michael Schaffer and
 Sharyn Saslafsky.

Jerry Herman.
Peter Slote.
Walter and Ilse Steiermann, in
 honor of all the participants in
 the Rosh Hashanah morning
 service.
Wendy Rouder.
Randy Weiss, with great
 appreciation for the entire
 Sha'ar Zahav staff.
Lawrence Helman, in honor of
 Gladys Helman.
Mark Yablonovich.
Marc Lipschutz, in honor of
 Rabbi Angel and the entire
 Ritual Committee.
Kim Reuben.
Randy Weiss, in appreciation of
 Brian Besser, Susan Unger and
 Jon Funk for their awesome
 contributions to CSZ over the
 years.
Nathaniel Lew.
Danna Levitt and Jim
Vaughan.
Ilene Dick.
Alicia Chazan.
Jerilynn Cohen.
Cynthia Kopec.
Larry Braverman.
Tamar Pachter.
Kim David Greenwood.
Jean and Norm Katz, in honor
 of Rose Patricia Heath Katz.
Richard Ostreicher, in
 memory of Paul Nemrow.
Jacob Rosenbaum, in
 memory of Hilda and
 Charles Rosenbaum.
Daniel Chesir.
Daniel Sawislak.
Mark Hoffheimer.
Schelley Gartner.

Steve Leeds.
Rachel and
Reed Pruyn Goldstein.
Eric Halpern.
James Warshell.
Susan Stahl.
Khym Penfil.
Ken Grouf.
Fay Cohen.
Thea Wernick.
Elliot Block, in memory
 of Tom Papera.
Martha Millison and
Steven Wade.
Steven Moss.
Gary Glasser, in honor of
 Allan Gold and Alan Ferrera.
Stephen E. Gittleman.
Estelle Friedman, to welcome
 Rabbi Angel.
Simone Almendares.
Stephen Pollack and
Michael Ehrenberg.
Janice Phillips.
Janine Baer.
Bruce Katz, in honor of
 Ron Lezell.
Roy Bateman.
Joel Bremson.
David Deutsch, in memory
 of Tommy Flores.
Sarah Steinberg.
Barbara Greiff.

Jody Patraha and
Rachel Schochet.
Mary Sue Philp.
Marilyn Aronowitz, in
 memory of Helene and
 Martin Aronowitz.
Jennifer Lefcourt.
Brian Rod.
Jonathan Funk.
Phil Charney.
Lisa Katz.
Henry Carrey, in memory of
 Fradl Herman Postolov and
 Hinde Brestana Kirzhner.
Ann Bauman, in memory of
 Jane Mann Bauman.
Ruthy Talansky, in honor of
 the Children's Education
 Board.
Batya Kalis.
Steve and Florence Nacamulli.
Dan Bellm and
Rabbi Yoel Kahn.
Tiela Chalmers, in memory of
 Bill and Thelma Chalmers.
Ann Bauman, in honor of Lea
 Salem and with thanks for the
 congregation's including her
 father in their prayers.
Jeff Shuman.
Terrie Allon.
Joanne and Bruce Kapsack.
Karen Schiller, in honor of
 Gail Ludwig, Clarissa Kripke
 and all the High Holiday
 ushers.

October Va'ad Minutes

continued from page 5

previously ordered for the Oneg Room, Library and Chapel are no longer available, so new carpets will have to be selected, resulting in some delay.

The Va'ad thanked Lea and her staff for their hard work during the High Holiday season.

The Membership Committee distributed a list dated October 16, 2000 that included 28 new households previously voted in via email, five new introductory members, and twelve resignations. It was noted that the majority of these resignations were motivated by individual circumstances (e.g. moving out of town).

Thanks Michael!

The Newsletter committee extends its warmest appreciation to Michael Bettinger who has resigned after eleven years as official photographer for the JGF. His work has delighted all of us.

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat!

Sponsoring the oneg Shabbat following services is a lovely way to commemorate a special occasion. Onegs can be sponsored in honor of a simcha, as a tribute to the memory of a loved one, or "just because." The cost is \$80-\$120 and we have a number of available dates in the coming months. Please call the CSZ office if you would like to inquire about sponsoring an oneg Shabbat on a specific date or would like more information.

Contributions

AIDS Fund

Jody Reiss, in memory of those we have lost.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Sam Thal, in honor of Eli Weinstein.

Education Fund

David Thompson and Andrew Higgins.

Library Fund

Lucy Bernholz, in memory of Gertrude Bernholz.

Gifts in honor of the 10th anniversary of Susan Unger and Pam Erwin

Jon Funk and John Arnold.

James Carlson.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs.

Jason Feinberg.

Shelley Eisenman and Julie Moed.

Sharyn Saslafsky.

Lolma Olson and Beth Reed.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Batya Kalis, in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Andy Fyne, in honor of Nicole Bloom.

Steve Wiesner, in honor of Don and Lola Wiesner.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Susan Unger and Pam Erwin in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

Marc Wernick, in loving memory of Ted Wernick and with thanks to Rabbi Angel.

Ken Repp and Mike Bromberg, in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the synagogue office.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

Simon Glinsky.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Sharyn Saslafsky's appointment to the Ethics Commission.

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of David Gellman's birthday.

Ellen Lewin and Liz Goodman.

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of the 26th anniversary of David Stein and Alex Ingersoll.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Dahlia Gross, Melanie Kushnir and Lea Salem.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Ralph Krivokapich.

Lucy Cefalu and Deborah Udin.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Frank Hyman.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in memory of Helen Zimmerman.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Jeffrey Miller.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus.

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Steve Greenberg and Larry Kaplan's new home.

General Fund

Jon Funk and John Arnold, in honor of Sharyn Saslafsky's birthday and her service to CSZ.

Alter Nathan Bader.

Dana Vinicoff, in memory of Dolores Vinicoff.

Dick Radvon, in honor of the 95th birthday of Sue Ritz, mother of Barry Siegel.

Jeff Piade, in memory of Sophye Mendelson Gold.

Gary Gartner, in memory of Irv Gartner.

Ellen Lewin and Liz Goodman, in memory of Fannie and Joseph Lewin.

Randy Weiss, in honor of Craig Shear's joining Sha'ar Zahav.

Marc Wernick, in honor of the birth of Todd Ryan Robinson.

G'dali Braverman, in memory of Andrew Zysman.

Jake Wirtschafter, in honor of the Membership Committee.

Randy Weiss, in honor of Susan Weiss and in memory of Allen Weiss.

Marc Wernick, to welcome Rose Heath Katz.

Randy Weiss, in honor of the arrival of Rabbi Camille Angel and Karen Segal.

James Mead, in honor of Larry Kaplun.

Marianne Balin.

Drew Parker.

Jeffrey Schaffer.

Karen Schiller, in honor of Rose Katz for taking such good care of Detroit, Tribble and Max.

Laura Lowe, with thanks to the members of CSZ who were present and supportive on the first occasion of her chanting Torah.

Marc Wernick, in honor of Lisa Ochs' birthday.

Marjorie Ingall and Jonathan Steuer, in honor of Andy Ingall and Neal Hoffman.

Merry Luskin.

Michael Kay, in memory of Sylvia Kay.

Marc Wernick, in appreciation of Howard Steiermann.

Sherie Koshover, in loving memory of Gilbert Koshover and Rose Richshafer.

Terrie Allon.

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in memory of Helen Zimmerman.

Sheila Koshover, in loving memory of Rose Richshafer.

Desperately Seeking A Tax Deduction?

Many people are in the enviable position of holding greatly appreciated stock in their portfolios. By donating the stock to CSZ rather than selling it and donating the after tax proceeds, you can support CSZ and save money.

Check out the following example (Assumptions: Sale price \$12,000; cost basis \$2,000; Capital gains tax, 20% Federal, 5% California.):

- Sale Price \$12,000
- Cost Basis \$2,000
- Taxable Gain \$10,000
- Capital Gains Tax \$2,500
- Net After Taxes \$7,500

Result:

You pay \$2,500 in taxes; CSZ receives

\$9,500 (\$12,000 less the \$2,500 tax bill).

Donate the shares directly to CSZ:

- Donated Fair-Market Value \$12,000
- Tax Deduction \$12,500
- Taxes Saved \$4,500 (36% combined tax bracket)

Result:

You pay \$4,500 less tax; CSZ receives \$12,500 worth of stock and does not pay taxes when the stock is sold.

This is a win-win situation for both you and CSZ. If you are considering year-end tax planning ideas, please discuss this one with your tax advisor before making a decision or taking any action. Call Lea Salem in the office to make the donation.

New to CSZ? Haven't been in a synagogue in a while? Exploring Judaism? Whatever the reason, you may be unfamiliar with Hebrew terms commonly used at CSZ

and many other synagogues and Jewish institutions. We thus offer the following list as a guide. (Please let us know if you'd like us to add any words.)

עליה (*aliyah*) - to go up;
1) as in being invited to recite the blessings before and after the Torah is read;
2) or when one moves to Israel

עמידה (*amidah*) -
silent standing prayer

אויף רוף (*auf ruf*) -
ceremony held for a couple prior to marriage (Yiddish)

ביקור חולים (*bikkur cholim*) -
visiting the ill

בימה (*bimah*) - stage;
the raised platform from which ritual leaders conduct services

בני מצוה (*b'nai mitzvah*) -
collective noun for bar (son) and bat (daughter) mitzvah (commandment)

דבר תורה (*devar torah*) -
words of Torah; commentary on the weekly Torah portion

דור ראשון (*dor risbon*) -
first generation; social group for CSZ men over 40

ערב (*erev*) - evening

גמילות חסדים (*gemilut chasadim*) - acts of loving kindness

הבדלה (*havdalah*) -
ritual performed Saturday night after three stars appear in the sky marking the end of Shabbat and welcoming the new week

קבלת שבת (*kabbalat shabbat*) -
receiving or welcoming the Sabbath

קדיש (*kaddish*) -
prayer recited in memory of someone who has died

קדימה (*kadimah*) -
forward; CSZ religious school

קידוש (*kiddush*) -
blessing over wine

כיפה (*kippah*) -
head covering; yarmulke

לעתיד (*la'atid*) -
toward the future; CSZ group for young and young at heart

מעריב (*ma'ariv*) - evening service

מחזור (*machzor*) -
High Holiday prayerbook

מזל טוב (*mazel tov*) - good luck;
used to mean congratulations

מנחה (*minchah*) -
afternoon service

מנהג (*minbag*) - custom

משפחה (*mishpachah*) - family

מצוה (*mitzvah*) -
commandment; also used to refer to a good deed

מוציא (*motzi*) -
blessing over bread

מוסף (*musaf*) - additional service

נחם (*naches*) - pride (Yiddish)

עונג (*oneg*) - joy; the social hour following Shabbat services

עשה שלום (*oseh shalom*) -
maker of peace; song sung to end services and meetings

פרשה (*parashah*) -
weekly Torah portion (plural: *parashot*)

ראש השנה (*Rosh Hashanah*) -
literally head of the year; Jewish New Year

שער זהב (*Sha'ar Zahav*) -
Golden Gate

שבת שלום (*Shabbat Shalom*) -
Sabbath peace

שחרית (*shacharit*) -
morning service

שכינה (*shechinah*) -
in-dwelling presence of God; God's feminine essence

שואה (*Shoah*) - the Holocaust

סידור (*siddur*) - prayerbook

טלית (*tallit/tallis*) - prayer shawl

תיקון עולם (*tikkun olam*) -
repair of the world

תודה רבה (*todah rabah*) -
thank you very much

צדקה (*tzedakah*) -
righteous act; mitzvah of giving

ועד (*va'ad*) - board

יאר צייט (*yahrzeit*) -
anniversary of a death (Yiddish)

יום כיפור (*yom kippur*) -
Day of Atonement

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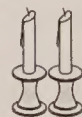
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